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BOROUGH OF



GILLINGHAM
Kent

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND
School Medical Officer
for the

Year ended 31st December, 1939

BY

W. A. MUIR, M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health
Medical Officer Maternity and Child Welfare Centre
School Medical Officer

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1940

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1939-1940.

Composed of all the Members of the Council.

Chairman :

Alderman J. W. DOBSON.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE, 1939-1940.

Composed of all the Members of the Council, and the following
Co-opted Members:—

Mrs. Eley.

Mrs. H. Hurwitz.

Miss V. Worthy.

Chairman :

Alderman Mrs. B. J. PARR.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS,
GILLINGHAM, KENT.

October, 1940.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Gillingham.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the annual report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year ending 31st December, 1939.

I regret the late date of publication, but local statistics were not received from the Registrar-General till October, 1940.

For obvious reasons the size of the Report has been curtailed.

On the outbreak of war in September, 1939, the ordinary work of the Health Department was seriously interfered with, very largely due to many of the staff taking an active part in A.R.P. duties and evacuation schemes.

The health of the Borough during 1939 may generally be considered satisfactory.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. MUIR,
Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF—PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

*W. A. Muir, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health:

*Meta L. Dunlop, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Anaesthetist (part time):

S. BATHER, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Diphtheria Immunisation (part time):

DR. AGNES KELLY.

*Dental Surgeon (part time):**(Maternity and Child Welfare)*

F. J. BLOOR, L.D.S. (Eng.).

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

*David L. Ball, C.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspectors:

*G. H. Ridgway, C.R.S.I.

*W. G. McDonald, Cert. S.I.B.

*R. C. Langley, Cert. S.I.B.

*†S. Davies, Cert. S.L.B. (Resigned 2.9.39).

*†F. Pickering, Cert. S.I.B. (Commenced 27.11.39).

Health Visitors:

*§ Mrs. A. Leach (C.M.B. Cert., Health Visitor's Cert.).

*†§ Miss R. Hopkins (C.M.B. Cert.).

*†|| Miss N. Legg (C.M.B. Cert., Health Visitor's Cert.).

*†|| Miss E. M. Ross (C.M.B. Cert.).

*†§ Miss M. Hughes (C.M.B. Cert., Health Visitor's Cert.).

*†§ Miss H. Parry (C.M.B. Cert., Health Visitor's Cert.).

(Municipal Midwives)

Miss I. Drury, C.M.B., S.R.N. (Commenced 1.5.39).

Miss E. Harding, C.M.B., S.R.N.

Miss W. D. A. Maisey, C.M.B., S.R.N.

Mrs. M. G. Salter, C.M.B.

Miss G. I. Stone, C.M.B.

Miss A. Willey, C.M.B.

Chief Clerk:

F. Eric Young.

Clerks:

E. Rundle (Resigned 6.10.39).

S. Pett.

V. P. Johnson.

Miss V. Marsh (Resigned 9.9.39).

Miss G. Palmer (Commenced 28.8.39).

Miss E. Bryant (Commenced 27.11.39).

Ambulance Driver and Mortuary Attendant:

John Sparks.

*Indicates officials to whose salaries contribution is made under the Public Health Acts or by Exchequer Grants.

†Indicates general trained nurse.

‡Also Inspector under Shop Acts.

§Two-thirds time given to Maternity and Child Welfare, one-third to School Medical work.

||Half-time given to School Medical work, half to Maternity and Child Welfare.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA IN ACRES (land, inland water and foreshore) ...	11,201
TOTAL POPULATION ...	74,070 (Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-year 1939.
CIVILIAN POPULATION ...	68,060
TOTAL POPULATION ...	60,983 (Census, 1931).
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1939) according to Rate Books ...	19,990
RATEABLE VALUE (April, 1939)	£362,561
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE, 1939-40 ...	£1,435
In 1939-40 the total Rates were 14/- in the £ (excluding water rate and charges).	
Average weekly number of persons in receipt of Outdoor Relief during the year ended 31st March, 1940 ...	645
Amount paid in Outdoor Relief, year ended 31st March, 1940 ...	£13,634
Number of Gillingham persons admitted to the County Hospital, Chatham, during the year ended 31st March, 1940 ...	708

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS:		Total. Male. Female.			Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population
Live Births	Legitimate	1001	495	506	
	Illegitimate	31	13	18	13.9.
	Totals	1032	508	524	
Still Births	Legitimate	28	11	17	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births:— 29.16.
	Illegitimate	3	1	2	
	Totals	31	12	19	
DEATHS:					Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population:—
All causes	...	708	390	318	

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES:				Rate per 1,000 total
				Deaths. (live and still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	2	1.88
Other Puerperal causes	...	...	2	1.88
Total				3.76

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	32
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	32
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	93
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	2

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

The Registrar-General's estimate of population in June, 1939, was 74,070, compared with 70,600 in the previous year.

The estimated CIVILIAN population was 68,060.

Birth Rate.

Registered live births numbered 1,072, but after correction for inward and outward transfers the net number properly belonging to Gillingham is 1,032. This represents a birth rate of 13.9 per 1,000 of the population.

The rate for England and Wales was 15 and for London 12.3 per 1,000 of the population.

Illegitimate Live Births.

The number assigned by the Registrar-General is 31 or 3 per cent., of all live births.

Still-Births.

The number registered was 31, of which 3 were illegitimate.

Death Rate.

Deaths of persons properly belonging to the Borough numbered 708, of which 390 were males and 318 females. The crude death rate was therefore 10.4 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

The figure for the previous year was 9.35 per 1,000. The death rate for England and Wales was 12.1 and for London 11.4.

The Registrar-General has supplied an Areal Comparability Factor which when multiplied by the crude death rate in the area modifies the latter so as to make it comparable with the crude death rate for the country as a whole or with the similarly adjusted death rate for any other area.

The factor for Gillingham being 1.04 the adjusted death rate is 10.8, which is comparable with the figure of 12.1 for England and Wales.

Deaths in Public Institutions.

Two hundred and seventy-two deaths or 38 per cent. of the total took place in institutions:—

St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester	...	...	41
County Hospital, Chatham	...	...	128
County Mental Hospital, Barming Heath	...	...	7
Other County Hospitals	...	...	56
Keycol Hill Hospital	...	...	7
Other Institutions	...	...	33
			<hr/>
			272

Natural Increase of Population.

This is measured by the excess of births over deaths. The figure for the year 1939 was 324 and for the previous years as follows:—

Year.	Natural Increase of Population.			
1935	230
1936	252
1937	294
1938	373
1939	324

Infant Mortality.

The rate for the year was 32 per 1,000 births. (Details given in Maternity and Child Welfare Section of Report.)

Causes of, and Ages at, Death.

The Table on Page 7 shows that 227 deaths were due to Heart Disease (many of these were persons over 65), 93 to Cancer and Malignant Disease, 34 to Tuberculosis, 22 to Pneumonia, 41 to Cerebral Hæmorrhage, 13 to Bronchitis and 21 to violence.

Twenty-two infants died from congenital debility, prematurity and malformations.

Cancer and Malignant Disease.

Deaths numbered 93, of which 50 occurred in males and 43 in females. Cancer was therefore responsible for 13 per cent. of the total deaths; the death rate was 1.4 per 1,000 of the population.

Year.			Death Rate.	Percentage of Total Deaths.
1923-1932	...	...	1.3	12.2
1933	...	...	1.6	15.7
1934	...	...	1.4	13.3
1935	...	...	1.9	16.6
1936	...	...	1.3	12.7
1937	...	...	1.4	12.6
1938	...	...	1.6	16.8
1939	...	...	1.4	13.0

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Nursing in the Home. See previous Reports.

Midwives.

The number of registered midwives at 31st December was 13, of whom 6 are members of the Corporation staff.

Health Clinics and Treatment Centres. See previous Reports.

Hospitals. See previous Reports.

Institutional Treatment for Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children. See previous Reports.

Ambulance Facilities. See previous Reports.

Laboratory Work.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Kent County Council Laboratory, Maidstone, and analyses of water, etc., by the County Analyst, Maidstone.

The bacteriological work carried out during the year was as follows:—

	No.	Percentage Positive.
Swabs for B. Diphtheria:		
From School Clinics	200	2.5
From Private Practitioners	345	16.2
Sputa for Tubercle Bacillus:		
From Tuberculosis Officer	149	32.2
From Private Practitioners	112	9.8
Hairs from Ringworm Parasite:		
From School Clinics	2	100.0
Swabs for Streptococci	56	25.0
Miscellaneous	8	50.0

Reports on bacteriological examinations of milk and chemical analyses of food are given in the "Food Section" of the Report.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifications of infectious diseases numbered 375.

There were 184 cases of scarlet fever and 86 of diphtheria.

Smallpox.

No cases were notified.

Vaccination.

The percentage of infants known to be successfully vaccinated was 55.5. The percentage of statutory declarations was 36.8.

I am indebted to the Vaccination Officer for the following figures:—

1.	Number of cases on Birth Lists received during 1939, but actually registered between 1st December, 1938, and 30th November, 1939 ...	1119
2.	Number of Vaccination Certificates received between 1st January, 1939, and 31st December, 1939	621
3.	Number of Statutory Declarations received between 1st January, 1939, and 31st December, 1939	412
4.	Number of Postponement Certificates received between 1st January, 1939, and 31st December, 1939:—	
	(a) Health of Child	28
	(b) Condition of house or prevalence of Infectious Disease in District ...	1
5.	Number of Certificates of Insusceptibility received between 1st January, 1939, and 31st December, 1939	4
6.	Number of cases removed from District	121
7.	Number of cases not traced	51

Scarlet Fever.

Notifications numbered 184 (213), equal to an attack rate of 2.7 per 1,000 of the population.

Number of Houses in which

One case occurred	...	...	...	...	...	134
Two cases occurred	...	...	...	...	...	18
Three cases occurred	...	...	...	...	...	2
Four cases occurred	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of " return cases "	...	...	...	...	...	4

Table showing notifications, deaths, etc., from Scarlet Fever during 1918-1939:—

Periods	Population	Number Notified	Deaths Registered	Treated in Hospital	Percentage Removed to Hospital	Attack Rate per 1,000 of population	Mortality per 1,000
1918-27	—	126	—	—	68	2.1	0.015
1928	48,140*	303	2	106	35	6.2	0.04
† 1929	55,050*	239	1	143	59	4.3	0.01
1930	56,670*	172	1	93	54	3.1	0.01
1931	50,700*	101	3	64	64	1.9	0.05
1932	62,050	146	1	88	60	2.4	0.02
1933	60,830	194	2	115	59	3.2	0.03
1934	61,930	132	1	82	62	2.1	0.01
1935	62,490	92	1	47	50	1.2	0.01
1936	64,790	99	—	54	56	1.5	0.00
1937	69,320	211	1	122	58	3.0	0.01
1938	70,600	263	—	136	51	3.7	0.00
1939	68,060*	184	—	110	60	2.7	0.00

† Borough extended April, 1929.

* Excluding non-civilians.

Diphtheria.

101 cases were notified but 15 were found to be suffering from tonsillitis. This represents an attack rate of 1.3 per 1,000 of the population.

Number of houses in which

One case occurred	...	...	...	...	...	60
Two cases occurred	...	...	...	...	...	6
Three cases occurred	...	...	...	...	...	2
Four cases	...	...	...	...	...	2

Three cases proved fatal, but none was immunised against the disease. Their ages were 8, 7 and 4 years. Two were visitors to the district.

Anti-toxin is available at the Health Department during office hours. When the office is closed it may be obtained at 39 and 41 Green Street.

Units of serum issued numbered 592,000.

Table showing notifications, cases isolated, number of deaths, etc., from Diphtheria during 1918-1939:—

Period	Population	Number Notified	Deaths Registered	Treated in Hospital	Percentage Removed to Hospital	Attack Rate per 1,000 of population	Mortality per 1,000 of population
1918-27	—	78	—	—	84	1.24	0.1
1928	48,140*	213	10	141	66	4.4	0.21
† 1929	55,050*	179	17	143	64.8	3.2	0.17
1930	56,670*	42	1	32	76	0.76	0.01
1931	50,700*	19	1	17	89	0.37	0.02
1932	62,050	8	—	8	100	0.13	—
1933	60,830	17	1	16	94	0.28	0.02
1934	61,930	52	4	43	82	0.83	0.06
1935	62,490	27	5	23	85	0.43	0.08
1936	64,790	17	2	17	100	0.26	0.03
1937	69,320	42	1	32	78	0.60	0.01
1938	70,600	157	4	137	87	2.22	0.06
1939	68,060*	86	1	72	84	1.3	0.01

* Excluding non-civilians.

† Borough extended April, 1929.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

During the year 727 children were immunised, of whom 305 were under 5 years of age.

T.A.F. was administered in 3 doses at fortnightly intervals. The first 2 doses were 1 c.c. and the 3rd 1.5 c.c. Children under 5 years were treated with two injections of A.P.T. (0.2 c.c. and 0.5 c.c.).

The following table summarises the work of the Clinic since its inception in April, 1935.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINICS.

Clinic	Year	Number of 1st Schick Tests	Results		Number of Inoculations			Total Attendances
			Pos.	Neg.	1st	2nd	3rd	
Rainham	1935*	—	—	—	112	109	100	321
	1936	4	1	3	196	187	187	578
	1937	2	—	2	163	164	149	482
	1938	—	—	—	295	298	294	1,087
	1939	—	—	—	97	96	73	266
	TOTAL	6	1	5	863	854	803	2,734
Gillingham	1935*	5	3	2	339	310	275	1,016
	1936	27	11	11	472	461	471	1,457
	1937	25	18	9	551	543	549	1,707
	1938	—	—	—	718	693	658	2,069
	1939	3	—	3	571	575	346	1,500
	TOTAL	60	32	25	2,651	2,582	2,299	7,749

* Part of the year. The scheme for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria was inaugurated in April, 1935.

SUMMARY OF COMPLETED CASES.

YEAR	Under 5 years of age			5-12 years of age			Over 12 years of age			GRAND TOTAL
	Gillingham	Rainham	Total	Gillingham	Rainham	Total	Gillingham	Rainham	Total	
1935 ...	72	28	100	158	73	231	39	5	44	375
1936 ...	140	47	187	301	130	431	36	4	40	658
1937 ...	168	49	217	365	99	464	16	1	17	698
1938 ...	235	88	323	411	197	608	12	9	21	952
1939 ...	261	44	305	353	55	408	12	2	14	727
TOTALS	876	256	1,132	1,588	554	2,142	115	21	136	3,410

During 1939 the number of children who failed to attend for a complete course of injections was 37.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

Three patients were notified, but one was found to be suffering from T.B. Meningitis. Two cases proved fatal.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

Thirteen cases were notified.

Pneumonia.

Notifications numbered 41, compared with 37 in the previous year:—

Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	11
Acute Primary Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	30

Measles and Whooping Cough.

These were made compulsorily notifiable as from 1st November, 1939. The following cases were notified:—

Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

HOSPITAL TREATMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Admissions to Keycol Hospital numbered 210, compared with 297 in the previous year.

The following Table gives details:—

Keycol Hill Hospital, Sittingbourne.	Scarlet. Fever.	Diph- theria.	Acute Cerebro-Spinal Poliomyelitis.	Fever.
Number of patients admitted	110	87†	11	3 (a)
Deaths	—	3	—	2
Discharged	121	98	11	1
In Hospital on the 31st December, 1939	—	4		
Average number of days per patient in Hospital	36	33		

† 15 proved not to be diphtheria.

(a) One was a case of T.B. meningitis.

Disinfections.

Houses disinfected by formalin-spraying in connection with tuberculosis cases numbered 134.

The following articles were removed for disinfection in the steam disinfecter or formalin chamber:—

Mattresses	...	...	...	...	304
Palliasses	...	...	...	...	213
Pillows	...	...	...	...	456
Cushions	...	...	...	...	378
Bolsters	...	...	...	...	258
Hearthrugs	...	...	...	...	259
Clothing	...	...	...	...	561
Carpets	...	...	...	...	88
Books	...	...	...	...	257
Eiderdowns	...	...	...	...	249
Sundries	...	...	...	...	397
TOTAL					3,420

Tuberculosis.

Notifications of new cases numbered 69, compared with 67 in the previous year. The average figure for the last 10 years was 79.

The figures for the years 1929-1939 were as follows:—

		Rate per 1,000 of		Rate per 1,000 of
	Pulmonary.	Population.	Non- Pulmonary.	Population.
1929	...	57	16	0.22
1930	...	72	15	0.22
1931	...	57	22	0.36
1932	...	82	23	0.37
1933	...	72	14	0.23
1934	...	61	19	0.30
1935	...	72	15	0.24
1936	...	46	13	0.20
1937	...	48	19	0.27
1938	...	54	13	0.17
1939	...	43	26	0.35

Six cases were non-notified before death, and 6 at a late stage of the disease.

Period elapsing between notification and death.					Cases.
One to seven days	...	...	...	...	2
One to four weeks	...	...	...	...	1
One to three months	...	...	...	...	3

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths was as 1 is to 6.

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1930.

Under these regulations the Medical Officer of Health is required to keep an up-to-date register of all notified cases. For this purpose the register is revised quarterly.

					Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
Number on Register at 1st January							
1939	...	...	...	...	180	91	271
Number on Register at 31st December, 1939							
	...	...	...	...	184	105	289

Table compiled from local records, giving details with regard to sex, age, etc., of notified new cases and deaths during 1939:—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	4	3	—	—	—	2
5—15 "	1	—	6	5	—	—	—	—
15—25 "	11	4	1	1	4	5	—	—
25—35 "	7	5	—	5	3	1	—	—
35—45 "	7	4	—	1	7	2	—	—
45—55 "	1	—	—	—	3	1	1	—
55—65 "	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Total ...	29	14	11	15	21	10	1	2
	43		26		31		3	

Tuberculosis Death Rate.

According to the Registrar-General, total deaths numbered 34 compared with 41 in the previous year.

The following Table is inserted for purposes of comparison:—

Year	Deaths			Death Rates per 1,000 of Population		
	All Forms	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	All Forms	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1929	46	39	7	0·8	0·7	·1
1930	57	52	5	1·0	0·9	·08
1931	41	27	14	0·8	0·5	·27
1932	54	49	5	0·87	0·8	·08
1933	59	49	10	0·96	0·8	·16
1934	39	34	5	0·62	0·5	·08
1935	62	56	6	0·99	0·89	·09
1936	52	44	8	0·80	0·68	·12
1937	48	40	8	0·70	0·58	·12
1938	41	35	6	0·58	0·49	·08
1939	34	30	4	0·5	0·44	·05

PARTICULARS of patients from the Gillingham Area dealt with at the County Tuberculosis Dispensary during the year ended December 31st, 1939.

New Cases.

	PULMONARY				NON-PULMONARY				TOTALS				GRAND TOTAL
	Adults		Children		Adults		Children		Adults		Children		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Tuberculous	31	13	2	2	1	4	7	4	32	17	9	6	64
Non-T.B.									53	49	38	26	166
Obs., Dec. '39									2	1			3
Total New Cases	31	13	2	2	1	4	7	4	87	67	47	32	233

Venereal Diseases.

I am indebted to Dr Nicol, medical officer in charge of the County Council V.D. Clinic in Rochester, for the subjoined figures.

New Patients—Gillingham:

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Syphilis	10	5	15
Soft sore	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	27	6	33
Non-Venereal	32	7	39
	—	—	—
	69	18	87
	—	—	—

Total No. of new patients from all areas served ... 404

Average No. of Gillingham
patients under daily
treatment or observation
during 1939

66 37 103

Discharges (All Districts served).**DISCHARGED CURED.**

Syphilis	22	24	46
Soft sore	2	2	4
Gonorrhoea	84	37	121
Non-Venereal	128	31	159

DEFAULTED BEFORE FINAL TEST OF CURE.

Syphilis	6	1	7
Gonorrhoea	11	0	11

DEFAULTED BEFORE COMPLETION OF TREATMENT.

Syphilis	5	21	26
Gonorrhoea	23	11	34

Total attendances of Gillingham patients ... 2,589

Total attendances all areas served 10,993

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Public Health Act, 1936.

Births require to be notified to the Local Authority within 36 hours. The number received was 1,061, which represents 99 per cent. of those registered.

Ninety-nine per cent. were notified by midwives, the remainder by doctors or parents. The figure 1,061 includes births taking place in the Borough, but whose usual residence is elsewhere. After correction for inward and outward transfers the number properly belonging to the Borough is 1,032, compared with 1,033 in the previous year.

Of the total births notified (viz., 1,061), 47 per cent. (53) took place in institutions.

Twin births numbered 8.

Home Visiting.

The town is divided into six areas, each with its own health visitor who is responsible for visits under the Maternity and Child Welfare and the School Medical Services.

Home visits under the former numbered 10,805.

The following is a summary of home visits:—

	1939.	1938.
Visits to expectant mothers	125	178
First visits to living infants	959	960
Re-visits under 1 year	2,874	3,180
Visits 1 to 5 years	5,226	5,993
Visits <i>re</i> Milk Order	16	20
Visits <i>re</i> Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	1
Visits <i>re</i> Measles	1	118
Visits <i>re</i> Mumps	—	2
Visits <i>re</i> Whooping Cough	106	37
Visits <i>re</i> Chicken Pox	35	4
Visits <i>re</i> Boarded-Out Children	86	91
Other Visits	1,372	1,294
TOTALS	<u>10,805</u>	<u>11,878</u>

Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids.

Children under 5 years are examined at the child welfare centres and, if requiring operation, referred to a private doctor or to hospital. The number referred was 6. Those sent to St. Bart's. Hospital, Rochester, are provided with a subscribers' letter.

Ophthalmic Treatment.

Twenty-one children affected with squint were examined at the ophthalmic clinic by Dr. Dunlop, and glasses prescribed for 16. Attendances numbered 41.

Dental Defects.

A clinic is held weekly for expectant and nursing mothers and children under 5 years of age.

The following is a summary of the work during the year:—

Number of sessions held	...	...	...	...	42
Number of expectant mothers treated	...	...	...	...	111
Number of nursing mothers treated	...	...	...	...	32
Number of children treated	...	...	...	...	89
Total attendances of expectant mothers	...	...	...	...	286
Total attendances of nursing mothers	...	...	...	...	93
Total attendances of children	...	...	...	...	122
Extractions	{ Permanent—Expectant mothers	...	...	...	710
	{ Permanent—Nursing mothers	...	...	...	313
	{ Temporary	...	...	...	332
Fillings ...	{ Expectant mothers	...	...	...	43
	{ Nursing mothers	...	...	...	6
	{ Children	...	...	...	12
Administrations of Anaesthetics	{ Expectant mothers	...	...	...	170
	{ Nursing mothers	...	...	...	60
	{ Children	...	...	...	105
Other Operations ...	{ Expectant mothers	...	...	...	18
	{ Nursing mothers	...	...	...	1
	{ Children	...	...	...	3
Payments	{ Expectant mothers	...	...	£13 7s. od.	
	{ Nursing mothers	...	...	£2 17s. 6d.	
	{ Children	...	...	£4 16s. 3d.	

Dentures supplied :—

Full upper and lower ...	...	...	...	29
Full upper ...	...	...	...	1
Part upper and lower ...	...	...	...	2
Part upper ...	...	...	...	3
Gross cost ...	...	...	£136	12s. 0d.
Amount recovered from patients ...	...	...	£41	10s. 9d.
Net cost to Corporation ...	...	...	£95	1s. 3d.

Patients are required to contribute in accordance with an income scale approved by the Corporation.

Child Welfare Centres.

The Balmoral Gardens Centre is open each afternoon, Monday to Thursday inclusive and the Rainham Centre every Tuesday at 2 p.m. Total attendances numbered 18,934, of which 3,748 were in respect of children aged 1 to 5 years.

Attendances.

				Balmoral Gardens	Rainham Centre
1936	...	...	...	15,758	2,557
1937	...	...	...	17,096	3,067
1938	...	...	...	17,871	3,336
1939	...	...	...	14,822	4,112

The following Table gives details of each Centre during the year.

	Balmoral Gardens	Rainham Centre
Children under 1 year on register for first time	609	165
Children 1 to 5 years on register for first time	128	40
Average attendance per session ...	74	80
Total children on register, December, 1939...	1,755	435
Children referred for treatment to hospital or private doctor ...	88	11
Umbilical Hernia strapped ...	81	12

Clinic for Children aged 1-5 years.

The object of this clinic is to carry out routine medical inspection as near as possible to the second, third and fourth birthdays.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year 1939.

Number of children examined—

at ages 1-2 years ...	...	...	13
2-3 years ...	...	...	66
3-4 years ...	...	...	45
4-5 years ...	...	...	26
TOTAL ...			150

Number referred for treatment ...	...	13
Number treated at Clinic ...	...	30
Number referred for observation ...	...	19

Defect	Referred for Treatment				Trtd.	Ref. for Observn.
	Priv. Doct'r	Hosp.	Eye Clinic	Dental Clinic		
Nutrition
Skin	6	...
Muscle Tone
Deformities	1	...
Teeth	6	1	1
Nose and Throat	4	...	...	...	9
Glands—Tonsillar	2
Eyes	1	...	2	1
Ears	2
Heart and Vessels	3
Appetite and Digestion	13	...
Nocturnal Enuresis	5	...
“Nervous” Condition	1	...	...	1	...
Other Conditions (including rheumatism)	...	1	...	...	1	1
TOTALS ...	—	6	1	6	30	19

Supply of Milk to Necessitous Mothers and Children.

Dried milk is provided free in necessitous cases to expectant and nursing mothers and to infants.

DISTRIBUTION OF DRIED MILK AT THE WELFARE CENTRES DURING THE YEAR 1939.

		Gillingham		Rainham		Total	
		Free	Bought	Free	Bought	Free	Bought
Expectant mother		17	4	8	—	25	4
Nursing mother		25	10	6	2	31	12
Infants	Under 1	90	346	13	54	103	400
	1 — 2	17	9	6	2	23	11
	2 — 3	—	1	1	1	1	2
	3 — 4	—	—	2	—	2	—
	4 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Expectant and nursing mother		8	2	5	—	13	2
Expectant mother and infant		5	1	1	—	6	1
Nursing mother and infant		10	11	1	—	11	11
Expectant and nursing mother and infant		—	1	—	—	—	1
TOTALS :		172	385	43	59	215	444

Persons originally receiving free milk but later, by virtue of improved economic circumstances, entitled only to buy, have been classified as buyers.

The approximate cost for the year ending 31st December, was £199.

Methods of Feeding (under 9 months).

For many years records have been kept of methods of feeding at the first home visit and at the time of the first visit to an infant consultation clinic.

At the former 83.0 per cent. were breast-fed, but at the latter 26.1 per cent. were "on the bottle."

1. FIRST HOME VISITS. (Average age 14 days).

		Percentage Breast-fed	Percentage Breast+ Bottle	Percentage on Bottle only
1936	...	83.6	7.2	9.2
1937	...	84.1	5.1	10.8
1938	...	86.3	5.2	8.5
1939	...	83.0	7.1	9.9

2. AT CHILD WELFARE CENTRE (First Visit). Average age 2 months (approx.).

		Percentage Breast-fed	Percentage Breast+ Bottle	Percentage on Bottle only
1936	...	66.0	7.6	26.4
1937	...	67.5	5.9	26.6
1938	...	64.5	6.3	31.0
1939	...	67.2	6.7	26.1

Clinics for Expectant Mothers.

A special clinic is held every Friday morning at the Balmoral Gardens Centre and monthly at the Rainham Centre.

The number of expectant mothers attending for the first time was 403 compared with 421 in the previous year.

Summary.

		Balmoral Gardens Centre	Rainham Centre
Expectant mothers	... ..	346	57
Attendances by expectant mothers	...	960	140
Expectant mothers referred for treatment to private practitioners or hospital	... ..	20	4
Post-natal cases	... ..	21	2
Attendances by post-natal cases	...	68	6
Post-natal cases referred for treatment	...	2	1
Found not pregnant	... ..	22	5
Cases referred to Maternity Homes	...	41	5
Average attendance per session	...	20	3

The attendances, etc., were as follows:—

	Balmoral Gardens Centre	Rainham Centre	Total 1939	Total 1938
New cases, post-natal included ...	367	59	426	432
Attendances ...	1,028	146	1,174	1,118

Ante-natal and Post-natal Examinations by Private Practitioners.

442 individual mothers received examination during the year.

The following is a summary of the examinations made:—

Number of first ante-natal examinations ...	...	324
Number of second ante-natal examinations ...	...	220
Number of post-natal examinations ...	...	155
TOTAL ...		<hr/> 699 <hr/>

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

Two homes were on the register at the end of the year under the Public Health Act, 1936, with a total accommodation of 16 beds.

Institutional Midwifery.

12 civilians were admitted to the Naval Maternity Home and 34 to the County Hospital, Chatham.

Supervision of Midwives.

The Corporation is the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives' Acts, 1902-1936. 20 midwives gave notice of their intention to practice during the year.

The following return was made to the Ministry of Health :—

	Domicil'y Midwives	Midwives in Instn's	Totals
1. Total number of midwives practising at the end of the year in the area of the Local Supervising Authority :—			
(a) Employed by the Local Supervising Authority	6	—	6
(b) Employed by other Welfare Councils :—			
(i) under arrangements made with the Local Supervising Authority in pursuance of Section 1 of the Midwives' Act, 1936 :—	—	—	—
(ii) Others	—	—	—
(c) Employed by Voluntary Associations :—			
(i) under arrangements made with the Local Supervising Authority in pursuance of Section 1 of the Midwives' Act, 1936 :—	—	—	—
(ii) Others	—	6	6
(d) In private practice	1	—	1
TOTALS ...	7	6	13

		Domicil'y Cases	Cases in Inst'ns	Totals
2. Number of cases in the area of the Local Supervising Authority attended during the year by midwives:—				
(a) Employed by the Council:—				
	As Midwives	344	—	344
	As Maternity Nurses ...	118	—	118
(b) Employed by other Welfare Councils:—				
(i) under arrangements made with the Local Supervising Authority in pursuance of Section 1 of the Midwives Act, 1936:—				
	As Midwives	—	—	—
	As Maternity Nurses ...	—	—	—
(ii) Others—				
	As Midwives	—	—	—
	As Maternity Nurses ...	—	—	—
(c) Employed by Voluntary Associations:—				
(i) under arrangements made with the Local Supervising Authority in pursuance of Section 1 of the Midwives Act, 1936:—				
	As Midwives	—	—	—
	As Maternity Nurses ...	—	—	—
(ii) Others—				
	As Midwives	—	254	254
	As Maternity Nurses ...	—	245	245
(d) In private practice—				
	As Midwives	84	—	84
	As Maternity Nurses ...	10	—	10
TOTALS	As Midwives	428	254	682
	As Maternity Nurses ...	128	245	373

3. Number of cases in which medical aid was summoned during the year under Section 14 (i) of the Midwives Act, 1918, by a midwife:—
- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|------------|
| (i) engaged in domiciliary practice | ... | ... | 132 |
| (ii) in institutional practice | ... | ... | 157 |
| TOTAL | ... | ... | 289 |
4. Number of domiciliary births during the year in the area of the Local Supervising Authority 562

Records of Sending for Medical Help.

Under the rules of the Central Midwives Board midwives are required to summon medical help in certain defined emergencies.

During the year it was sought on 289 occasions, of which 252 were for the mother and 37 for the child. The percentage of births in which medical assistance was considered necessary was therefore 27 per cent.

Year	Notifications Received		Total	Percentage of Births in which Medical help was called in
	On behalf of Mother	On behalf of Child		
1936	154	31	185	16%
1937	216	30	246	22%
1938	276	58	334	27%
1939	252	37	289	27%

The conditions for which medical help was required are set forth as follows:—

<i>Mothers</i> —	1939
Ruptured perineum	87
Prolonged labour	51
Faulty presentations	18
Haemorrhages	10
Miscarriage	5
Albuminuria	24
Rise of temperature	13
Miscellaneous	44
TOTAL	252

Child—

Ophthalmia	...	...	...	...	...	10
Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	7
Debility	...	...	...	...	...	9
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	9
TOTAL						37

The following notifications were also received from midwives:—

Source of infection	...	...	...	...	3
Discontinuance of breast-feeding			...	...	9
Death of Child	...	...	...	...	4
Still-births	...	...	...	...	7
Laying-out dead body	...	...	...	...	2
TOTAL					25

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Number notified	...	...	...	...	22
Removed to hospital	...	...	...	...	12

Midwives Act (1918 Section 14).

The Ministry prescribes the scale of fees to be paid by Local Supervising Authorities to medical practitioners called in by midwives.

152 accounts amounting to a total of £222 2s. were paid by the Corporation.

In accordance with the Corporation's scale of income £156 10s. was due to be paid by patients, but the sum received by the end of the year was £99 1s. 6d.

Whole fee due to be paid by patient	...	...	93
Part fee due to be paid by patient	...	...	29
Whole fee due to be paid by Corporation	...	...	30

Home Helps.

These were employed on 42 occasions.

Gross cost to Corporation	...	£176	os.	od.
Amount to be recovered	...	£32	15s.	3d.
Amount recovered at 31st December	...	£25	12s.	6d.

Consultants for Midwifery Patients.

Consultants were called in on 7 occasions.

Gross cost to Corporation	...	£46	4s.	od.
Amount due to be received from patient	... ..	£45	3s.	od.
Amount received by 31st December		£23	11s.	od.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The health visitors who are appointed infant life protection visitors made 86 visits.

Summary.

Number of foster-mothers (December, 1939)	...	23
Foster children (December, 1939)	... ..	26
Visits by nurses	... ..	86
Total number of children removed from the register during the year	... ..	13
Returned to parents	... ..	4
Removed to foster-parents outside district	... ..	2
Over age	... ..	7

Infant Mortality.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year numbered 32, which represents an infant mortality rate of 32 per 1,000 births compared with 44 per 1,000 in the previous year.

The rate for London was 48 and for England and Wales 50 per 1,000 live births.

Year.	Rate per 1,000 Births	
	Gillingham	England and Wales.
1922-1931
1932
1933
1934
1935
1936
1937
1938
1939

Maternal Mortality.

There were 4 deaths associated with pregnancy.

The following table shows the maternal mortality rate during the period 1932-1939:—

Year.						Rate per 1,000 births.
1932	...	...	...	...	...	2.1
1933	...	...	...	...	...	3.1
1934	...	...	...	...	...	1.0
1935	...	...	...	...	...	1.0
1936	...	...	...	...	...	2.1
1937	...	...	...	...	...	0.9
1938	...	...	...	...	...	2.8
1939	...	...	...	...	...	3.8

Birth Control Clinic.

This is conducted monthly by Dr. Dunlop.

Number of sessions	...	...	...	4
New cases	...	...	...	6
Number of attendances	...	...	...	9
Number advised	...	...	...	3

Ophthalmia Neonatorum (Purulent Inflammation of Eyes in the New-born).

No. notified	...	...	...	4
Treated in hospital	...	...	...	1
Vision unimpaired	...	...	...	4

In 10 cases midwives summoned medical assistance for infants suffering from inflammation of the eyes.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The subjoined Table shews the premises on the registers and the number of inspections made.

	On Register 31st Dec.	No. of visits during 1939	No. of Notices	No. of defects remedied
Bakehouses	19	63	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops ..	56	} 276	—	—
Retailers of bottled steril- ised milk	126		—	—
Cowsheds	14	62	—	—
Slaughterhouses	13	2,871	2	2
Fried Fish Shops	38	74	—	—
Pressed and Preserved Meat Premises ..	95	129	1	1
Restaurants	30	37	—	—

Milk Supply.

Of those given in the foregoing Table, 14 purveyors have registered premises situated outside the Borough.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The following licences were issued during 1939:—

Tuberculin Tested (Certified) Milk.

Dealer's licence to retail 1

Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Dealer's licence to retail 2

Pasteurised Milk.

Supplementary licence to retail 2

MILK SAMPLES.

Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Number of samples 5

Number satisfactory 4

Pasteurised Milk.

Number of samples 5

All reached the required standard.

Inspection of Cows.

The number in milk at the end of the year was approximately one hundred and twenty-six.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

The County Council was responsible for the administration of this Act. I am indebted to the Inspector of Weights and Measures, Chatham, for the following figures for the period of 1st January, 1939, to 30th September, 1939:—

New Milk	...	...	...	...	...	40
Condensed Milk	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sterilized Milk	...	...	...	...	...	2
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	13
Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	8
Lard	...	...	...	...	...	4
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pepper	...	...	...	...	...	1
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	2
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	1
Preserved Peas	...	...	...	...	...	1
Vinegar	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tea	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sausage	...	...	...	...	...	2
Mercuric Ointment	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cream	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cocoa	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rice	...	...	...	...	...	2
Soda Water	...	...	...	...	...	3
Beer	...	...	...	...	...	5
Total						99

Prosecutions.

A milk retailer was summoned in respect of milk found on analysis to be 21 per cent. deficient in fat.—Fined 10s.

A licensed victualler was summoned in respect of Rum which contained 17.3 per cent. excessive water.—Fined £2, with £1 1s. od. costs.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Particulars of samples taken by the Sanitary Inspectors during the period 1st October, 1939, to 31st December, 1939:—

Articles	No. of Samples
Milk	20
Pearl Barley	1
Margarine	3
Cheese	1
Cocoa	1
Coffee	1
Vinegar	3
Butter	5
Bread and Butter	3
Beef Sausages	3
Lard	1
Total ...	42

Prosecutions.

Two retailers were summoned in respect of milk found on analysis to contain added water.

One defendant was fined £5 with costs £2 2s., or 14 days' imprisonment. The other case was dismissed on payment of costs.

A restaurateur was summoned in respect of bread and butter, which was found on analysis to be bread and margarine.

Slaughterhouses on Register at 31st December numbered 12.

Situation	Name of Owner	Address of Owner
1. Wyles Street	Walter Wilfred Webb	145 Gillingham Road
2. 68 Victoria Street	Gillingham Co-op. Society, Ltd.	142 High Street
3. 114 High Street	E. J. Payne	69 Bryant Road, Strood
4. Chaucer Road	Bradford Property Trust, Ltd.	69 Market Street, Bradford
5. Queen's Road	Mrs. Winifred Horton	Byrhook, Ashford, Kent
6. Upper Britton Place	E. Crawley	79A High Street
7. 78 Station Road, Rainham	Mrs. S. E. Copsey	78 Station Road, Rainham
8. 166 High Street, Rainham	Kemsley	166 High Street, Rainham
9. 130 High Street, Rainham	R. Chatling	130 High Street, Rainham
10. High Street, Rainham	Rainham Co-op. Society	High Street, Rainham
11. Bermudia, Fairview Av., Wigmore	H. Foulds	Bermudia, Fairview Av., Wigmore
12. 38 Twydall Lane	J. T. Wallis	38 Twydall Lane

In February, 1940, licences were granted to Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 (Sec. 57).

In January, 1940, the temporary suspension of many private slaughterhouses was brought about by the Ministry of Food under the Livestock (Restrictions on Slaughtering) Order.

Unsound Food.

Amount of food condemned was 6 tons, 15 cwt., 3 qrs., 25 lbs., including 138 carcasses or parts of carcasses which were tuberculous.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned:—

	Cattle, exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	313	284	367	2,518	5,752
Number inspected	313	284	367	2,518	5,752
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	7	12
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	10	17	1	21	89
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	3.19	5.90	.27	1.11	1.74
Tuberculosis Only.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	8	1	—	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	12	45	2	—	125
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	3.83	18.66	.81	—	2.26

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

In accordance with Section 3 of this Act the number of persons licensed to slaughter is 37. Licenses remain in force for three years.

Potted and Preserved Meat Premises.

At 31st December, premises registered number 95.

Ice Cream Shops.

At the end of the year the number on the register was 125 compared with 123 in the previous year.

Fried Fish Shops.

Number on register is 38. Visits numbered 74.

HOUSING.

Action under the Housing Acts, 1930-36 may be summarised as follows:—

Years	Dwelling-houses Demolished	Persons Displaced	Dwelling-houses Made Fit
1931-1939 ...	75	302	36

In addition, 60 undertakings not to let for human habitation have been accepted by the Corporation; 22 houses were demolished as the result of informal action and 2 made fit. Parts of 6 houses were closed.

Repairs in most instances were enforced under the Public Health Act.

NEW HOUSES.

At 31st December, there were approximately 19,990 houses in the Borough. The number erected during the year was 325.

Summary of Years 1921-1939.

I am indebted to the Borough Surveyor for these figures:—

Year	By Local Authority Privately		Total
1921	119	7	126
1922	53	19	72
1923	—	55	55
1924	—	119 (33 without subsidy)	119
1925	—	172 (5 „ „)	172
1926	—	203 (19 „ „)	203
1927	96	209 (10 „ „)	315
1928	112	157 (24 „ „)	293
1929	133	168 (31 „ „)	332
1930	—	134 („ „)	134
1931	102	231 („ „)	333
1932	—	265 („ „)	265
1933	17	282 („ „)	299
1934	115	368 („ „)	483
1935	—	303 („ „)	303
1936	—	292 („ „)	292
1937	8	367 („ „)	375
1938	40	448 („ „)	488
1939	—	325 („ „)	325

Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.

236 houses were subjected to a full routine examination, details entered on “housing cards” and notices served where defects were found.

HOUSING SUMMARY.

I. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	887
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	2,984
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (including under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	236
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1,106
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	763

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	243
--	-----

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—
Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	569
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	538
(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	Nil

Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	6
(3) Number of dwelling-houses where owner gave undertaking not to let for human habitation ...	1

Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	1
---	---

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

Results of Bacteriological Examinations of Samples.

CHATHAM & DISTRICT WATER CO.

Date.	No. of organisms per cc. grown on agar at		B. coli (presumptive)	Remarks.
	37°C.	22°C.		
12.1.39	0	0	Absent in 100 ccs.	B. coli absent in 100 ccs. Good water.
9.2.39	0	0	„	„
9.3.39	0	2	„	„
6.4.39	0	0	„	„
4.5.39	0	4	„	„
8.6.39	0	2	„	„
6.7.39	0	0	„	„
3.8.39	0	1	„	„
5.10.39	0	0	„	„
10.11.39	0	0	„	„
7.12.39	0	0	„	„

RAINHAM WATER COMPANY.

12.1.39	130	88	„	Counts too high.
9.2.39	0	2	„	Good Water.
9.3.39	102	30	„	Satisfactory.
6.4.39	1	8	„	Good Water.
4.5.39	1	20	„	„
8.6.39	1	40	+ in 100 ccs.	Satisfactory.
6.7.39	16	20	Absent in 100 ccs.	„
3.8.39	0	20	„	Good Water.
5.10.39	0	2	„	„
10.11.39	65	73	+ in 20 ccs.	Not Satisfactory.
20.11.39	0	1	+ in 80 ccs.	Satisfactory.
7.12.39	1	6	+ in 70 ccs.	„
22.12.39	1	88	Absent in 100 ccs.	Counts rather too high at 22°C.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Three hundred and seventy-two houses in Rainham were connected to the main sewerage system of which 234 were new buildings.

One hundred and forty-one conservancy systems were converted.

The present position is as follows:—

Total houses connected to sewer during 1939	403	(Includes 372 in Rainham)
House connected to sewers (Whole Borough)	15,928	
" " " " (Rainham)	2,872	
Number (approximate) of Cesspools	513	
" " " Privies	10	
" " " Earth closets	11	
" " " Pail closets	55	

Cesspools or Privies were emptied on 528 occasions. Drains cleared numbered 952. 18 privies were abolished.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

This portion of the report has been prepared from information supplied by Mr. D. Ball, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

PREMISES, ETC., VISITED DURING 1939.

	No. of Visits
Milk shops and dairies and retailers of bottled sterilised milk	276
Cowsheds	62
Bakehouses	63
Slaughterhouses	2,871
Factories	220
Workshops and workplaces	46
Outworkers' premises	4
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	37
Re notified infectious diseases	492
Houses (filthy or verminous)	316
Refreshment houses, or premises where food is prepared	901
School lavatories	181
Shops under Shops Acts	807
Public lavatories	1,519
Drains tested	18
Houses let in lodgings	—

NUISANCES ABATED.

Complaints received	227
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

WATER CLOSETS:

New L.C.C. pans and traps fitted	...	...	...	...	...	16
Water closets re-built	...	...	...	...	...	8
New water closets constructed	...	...	...	...	...	11
Water closet fittings repaired (water)	...	...	...	...	...	102
Water closet seats, doors, floors, brickwork repaired	...	...	...	...	...	141
Water closet pans cleansed by tenants	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ventilation provided to water closets	...	...	...	...	...	7

WATER SUPPLY:

Pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
Internal supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	1

YARDS:

Drained and paved with cement concrete	81
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

SINKS AND BATHS:

Glazed stoneware sinks fixed	...	...	...	...	...	15
Sink waste pipes provided and fixed	...	...	...	...	...	46

DRAINAGE:

Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7
Subsidiary sewers cleared by Health Department	...	...	...	...	...	952
Drains cleared by owners	...	...	...	...	...	51
Subsidiary sewers cleared and repaired by Works Department	...	...	...	...	...	13
Inspection chambers repaired by owners	...	...	...	...	...	2
Inspection chambers repaired by Works Department	...	...	...	...	...	12
Inspection chamber covers and frames fitted by Works Department	...	...	...	...	...	20
Vent shafts repaired by Works Department	...	...	...	...	...	12

DAMPNESS:

Roofs repaired and made watertight	...	...	...	...	...	295
Eaves guttering and down water pipes provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	185
External walls protected from dampness	...	...	...	...	...	260
Damp-proof courses inserted under walls	...	...	...	...	...	39
Ventilation provided under floors	...	...	...	...	...	27
Forecourts paved with cement concrete	...	...	...	...	...	29

GENERAL :

Disused cesspools filled in	3
Accumulation of refuse in yard removed	6
Cellar walls cleansed and concrete laid to floor	10
Cooking ranges and coppers repaired	91
Dangerous cellar flaps repaired	15
Sashes, doors, frames, floors and stairs repaired ...	690
Filthy houses cleansed by tenants	—
Rooms re-papered and ceilings repaired and distempered	764
Smoke nuisance abated	20

PRELIMINARY AND ABATEMENT NOTICES.

During the year the following notices were served :—

Informal Notices for the abatement of various nuisances	825
Abatement Notices concerning various nuisances (Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936) ...	243
Section 39 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (notice to drain a building)	13
Section 39a of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Defective sanitary appliance)	38
Section 44 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Reconstruction of defective W.C. accommodation) ...	7
Section 45 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Defective closet accommodation)	6
Section 50 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Leaking cesspools)	202
Section 56 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Pave or drain Court, Yard or Passage)	4
Section 138 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Notice to provide water supply)	7
Gillingham Corporation Act, 1931, Section 72, respecting choked or defective drains	49

Provision of Sanitary Dustbins.

Section 100 of the Gillingham Corporation Act, 1931, requires the service of notices upon owners to provide regulation sanitary dustbins.

The following figures show the position at 31st December, 1939 :

	Total to 31st Dec., 1939
Number of notices served	3,348
Number of notices complied with	3,305

Factories Act, 1937.

There are 266 factories on the register. 266 inspections were made. Outworkers' premises numbered 110; 4 visits were paid.

Eradication of Bed-Bugs.

The number of houses found to be infested was:—

Council Houses	24
Other Houses	96

Total ... 120

Number of Houses sprayed	120
Number of Houses fumigated	23
Number of Houses sprayed and fumigated	6
Total number of rooms fumigated or sprayed ...	403

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

The Inspector appointed under the Act, investigated 31 complaints.

Shops Acts and Shops (Early Closing) Order.

One of the Sanitary Inspectors is also Shops Inspector and gives approximately one-third of his time to duties concerned with the Shops Acts.

Visits to shops numbered 807.

Notices were served in connection with the following defects:—

Insufficient W.C. accommodation	4
Unsuitable sanitary accommodation	2
Insufficient washing facilities	2
Unsatisfactory washing accommodation	4

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

- (1) Failing to provide galvanised iron dustbin. Fine of 10 ..
- (2) Ditto. Case dismissed.

LICENCES.

Licences were granted for the following:—

Petroleum	69
Calcium Carbide	1

MORTUARY.

48 bodies were received and 38 post-mortems performed.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Table showing seasonal incidence of Infectious Diseases
(Local Records).

Month	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	Acute Poliomyelitis	Measles	Whooping Cough
January	9	17	6	3	2	1	2	1	Not notifiable	Not notifiable
February	15	11	4	1	1	1	1	5	1	7
March	25	7	9	1	5	1	1	1	1	1
April	24	6	6	2	3	1	1	1	1	1
May	36	6	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
June	26	4	6	2	1	1	1	5	1	1
July	19	9	5	1	3	2	1	5	1	1
August	14	15	3	3	4	1	1	1	1	1
September	5	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
October	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
November	8	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
December	3	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTALS	184	86	41	13	22	4	3	13	1	8

Table showing :—(a) The distribution in age groups of infectious disease cases notified during 1939.
 (b) The number removed to Hospital.
 (c) The total number of deaths in the Borough from these diseases.

(Local Records).

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED														Total cases removed to Hospital	TOTAL DEATHS
	AT AGES										YEARS					
	All ages	Under 1	1 and under 2	2 and under 3	3 and under 4	4 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 20	20 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	Over 65			
Scarlet Fever ...	184	5	2	6	5	7	93	39	10	12	5	—	—	110	—	
Diphtheria ...	86	—	1	2	1	2	35	25	11	5	3	1	—	72	1	
Pneumonia ...	41	—	2	2	2	—	3	4	2	5	8	7	6	4	22	
Erysipelas... ..	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	5	2	4	1	3	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	4	—	—	12	2	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	13	2	—	2	—	2	4	1	1	1	—	—	—	11	—	
Measles	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough...	8	1	—	2	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	

BOROUGH OF GILLINGHAM.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1915-39.

Year	Population estimated to middle of each Year	Births		Total Deaths Registered in the District	Transferable Deaths		Net Deaths belonging to the District			
		Uncorrected Number	Net		of Non-Residents registered in the District	of Residents not registered in the District	Under 1 year of age		At all ages	
							Number	Rate		Number	Rate per 1,000 Net Births	Number	Rate
1915 ..	45,058	1,080	23.7	611	17	23	101	95.0	605	13.4
1916 ..	45,058	1,213	26.9	625	23	30	87	71.7	632	14.0
1917 ..	45,616	1,052	23.0	575	21	33	86	81.7	587	12.8
1918 ..	43,151	1,037	21.1	715	21	32	66	63.6	726	16.8
1919 ..	47,911	1,135	25.0	531	14	15	70	61.5	532	11.0
1920 ..	45,243	1,483	28.1	520	11	22	70	47.2	531	11.7
1921 Census ..	51,038	1,260	23.3	637	56	11	82	65.0	581	11.8
1922 ..	55,157	1,197	20.2	467	47	118	70	61.0	538	11.0
1923 ..	55,200	1,118	19.1	405	46	126	52	48.5	485	10.1
1924 ..	56,230	1,014	16.7	414	40	145	49	52.0	519	10.8
1925 ..	57,080	1,059	16.6	395	37	141	49	51.5	501	10.2
1926 ..	56,820	1,053	16.1	421	53	172	50	51.0	514	11.3
1927 ..	57,510	1,002	14.6	395	43	200	50	59.0	557	11.4
1928 ..	57,300	1,027	15.0	391	43	162	48	56.0	533	10.4
1929 ..	58,140	1,088	15.6	649	67	211	57	56.0	689	12.5
1930 ..	55,000	1,007	15.6	649	67	211	57	56.0	689	12.5
1931 Census ..	55,870	1,176	14.8	484	50	200	40	40.0	634	11.1
1932 ..	56,670	1,119	15.7	465	37	205	50	51.9	635	12.4
1933 ..	56,700	1,172	16.1	426	44	246	36	36.0	661	10.7
1934 ..	56,950	1,157	14.0	476	44	247	48	50.0	679	11.1
1935 ..	56,830	1,049	14.3	457	43	235	47	53.0	649	10.5
1936 ..	57,960	1,156	15.0	465	48	293	40	43.0	710	11.4
1937 ..	58,490	1,109	14.4	481	43	242	35	38.0	680	10.5
1938 ..	56,320	1,286	15.4	506	48	312	56	53.0	770	11.6
1939 ..	57,060	1,249	14.6	443	47	264	45	44.0	660	9.72
1939 ..	568,060	1,061	13.9	461	63	310	332	32.0	708	10.8

a Registrar-General's Estimate for calculating Birth Rate.

b Registrar-General's Estimate for calculating Death Rate.

* Figure given by Registrar-General.

Birth-Rates, Death-Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-Rates, and Case-Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1939

(Provisional Figures).

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	118 smaller Towns (Resident popula- tions 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	County of London	Gilling- ham
	Rates per 1,000 Population				
BIRTHS					
Live	15.0	14.8	15.6	12.3	13.90
Still	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.44	0.42
DEATHS					
All Causes	12.1	12.0	11.2	11.9	10.80
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.01
Diphtheria	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.02	0.01
Influenza	0.21	0.19	0.20	0.18	0.01
NOTIFICATIONS					
Smallpox	0.00	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	1.89	1.96	1.78	1.53	2.7
Diphtheria	1.14	1.21	1.16	0.98	1.2
Enteric Fever	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	—
Erysipelas	0.34	0.40	0.31	0.37	1.8
Pneumonia	1.02	1.21	0.89	0.99	0.60
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1 year of age	50	53	40	48	32
Deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 years of age	4.6	6.3	3.0	8.2	1.93
MATERNAL MORTALITY					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.77	Not available			1.93
Others	2.16				1.93
Total	2.93				3.89
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (<i>i.e.</i> , Live and Still)				
MATERNAL MORTALITY					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.74	Not available			1.88
Others	2.08				1.88
Total	2.82				3.76
NOTIFICATIONS					
Puerperal Fever } Puerperal Pyrexia }	14.35	17.26	12.99	3.31 14.22	— 20.70

**Causes of Death amongst Civilians as provided by the
Registrar-General :—**

CAUSES OF DEATH.						M.	F.
ALL CAUSES						390	318
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers					1	—
2.	Measles					—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever					—	—
4.	Whooping Cough					—	1
5.	Diphtheria					—	1
6.	Influenza					4	8
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica					—	—
8.	Cerebro-spinal Fever					1	—
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System					19	11
10.	Other Tuberculous Diseases					2	2
11.	Syphilis					—	—
12.	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis					—	1
13.	Cancer, Malignant Disease					50	43
14.	Diabetes					7	10
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, Etc.					21	20
16.	Heart Disease					123	104
17.	Aneurysm					—	2
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases					24	14
19.	Bronchitis					5	8
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)					13	9
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases					8	2
22.	Peptic Ulcer					10	1
23.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)					1	1
24.	Appendicitis					4	—
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver					2	—
26.	Other Diseases of Liver, etc.					2	2
27.	Other Digestive Diseases					4	4
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis					10	9
29.	Puerperal Sepsis					—	2
30.	Other Puerperal Causes					—	2
31.	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.					17	5
32.	Senility					14	11
33.	Suicide					8	2
34.	Other Violence					10	11
35.	Other Defined Diseases					27	31
36.	Causes Ill-defined or Unknown					1	1
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above):—							
	Small-pox					—	—
	Poliomyelitis					—	—
	Polioencephalitis					—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year:—							
	Total					21	11
	Legitimate					21	11
	Illegitimate					—	—
LIVE BIRTHS:—							
	Total						BR
	Legitimate						
	Illegitimate						
			I.M., etc.	M.	F.		
				489	505	508	524
				476	487	495	506
				13	18	13	18
STILL BIRTHS:—							
	Total					12	19
	Legitimate					11	17
	Illegitimate					1	2

BOROUGH OF GILLINGHAM
KENT
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Annual Report
OF THE
School Medical Officer
W. A. MUIR, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
FOR THE
Year ending December 31st, 1939.

GILLINGHAM EDUCATION COMMITTEE, 1939-40.

Chairman

Councillor F. R. WHITE, B.A., J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman

Alderman A. M. DAVENPORT, J.P.

Alderman G. BURTON	Councillor A. C. MACKINTOSH
Alderman J. W. DOBSON	Councillor T. McDERMOT
Alderman W. H. HOLDING, J.P.	Councillor Capt. E. McDONALD
Alderman J. J. KNIGHT	Councillor J. W. MEDHURST, J.P.
Alderman Mrs. B. J. PARR, J.P.	Councillor H. MIDDLETON
Alderman B. THOMSETT	Councillor L. J. NEWNHAM
Councillor W. L. ARIS, M.B.E.	J.P., C.C. (Mayor)
Councillor R. J. BLUNT	Councillor G. F. OWEN
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Councillor T. A. GLADWELL	Mr. A. T. SHARMAN
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Councillor Lieut. B. KING	

SCHOOL MEDICAL SUB-COMMITTEE

Chairman

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Councillor E. T. HAWKES	Mr. A. T. SHARMAN

together with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the General Purposes Committee

STAFF

School Medical Officer

W. A. MUIR, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant School Medical Officers

META L. DUNLOP, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
C. M. BELL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (part time)

Dental Anaesthetist

S. A. BATHER, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Dental Surgeon

W. S. STEVENS, Esq., L.D.S.

Operative Treatment of Tonsils and Adenoids

* A. G. WOODFORDE, Esq., M.B.

Nurses

Miss C. MAYHEW (whole time) (resigned 30th April, 1939)
Miss W. BRANDRETH (whole time) (appointed 1st May, 1939)
Miss N. LEGG (half time)
Miss E. ROSS (half time)
Mrs. A. LEACH (one-third time)
Miss R. HOPKINS (one-third time)
Miss M. HUGHES (one-third time)
Miss H. PARRY (one-third time)

Clerks

C. FRANCIS R. W. WRIGHT

Dental Attendant and Clerk

Miss D. BALCOMB, (resigned December, 1939)

* Hon. Staff, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester.

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS,
GILLINGHAM, KENT.

March, 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith submit the Annual Report on the work of the School Medical Department for the year ended 31st December, 1939.

On the outbreak of war, on 3rd September, this work was disorganised. Schools were re-opened for voluntary attendance on 16th October, and the following day facilities were provided for the treatment of minor ailments at the clinics. Attendances during the remainder of the year were small. During November, the dental clinic was open for one session per week. During the period September to December no routine medical examinations were carried out; they were re-started in January, 1940.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. MUIR,
School Medical Officer.

SUMMARY

No. on roll, July, 1939	7985
Average attendance to July, 1939	7059
" Routine" cases examined	1686
Total medical examinations	4681
Visits to schools by nurses	287
Visits to homes by nurses	1692
Inspections by school dentist	4742
Treated by school dentist	940
Percentage of average attendance found verminous ...	4.6
Percentage of average attendance excluded for verminous conditions	1.3
Total attendances at various clinics (dental excluded)	7678
Gross cost of elementary education, year ending 31st March, 1939	£107,958
Gross cost of school medical department for year ending 31st March, 1939	£4,232
Net cost of school medical department to ratepayers ...	£2,023

STAFF

Details are shown on page 2.

HYGIENE

The following school buildings fail to reach the standards of modern requirements:—Forge Lane, Canterbury Street Girls', James Street Boys', Arden Street Boys' and Girls'. They will be closed when a new school is erected at Hillyfields.

Twydall Lane School erected in a rapidly expanding part of the Borough to accommodate 320 juniors and infants was brought into use during the year.

MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Routine inspections of the Board of Education's three age groups were carried out.

- (1) On entry to school.
- (2) 8-9 years.
- (3) 12 years.

Total medical inspections and re-inspections numbered 4,681.

All parents are notified of the time and place of examination and are encouraged to attend.

The following table indicates that they were present in large numbers.

	<i>Group</i>				1938	1939
Entrants	{ Boys	93%	96%
				{ Girls	93%	93%
Intermediates	{ Boys	86%	89%
				{ Girls	84%	87%
Leavers	{ Boys	57%	61%
				{ Girls	68%	71%

NUTRITION

In accordance with the Board's requirements children examined at routine inspections are classified as "excellent," "normal," "slightly sub-normal," or "bad." The figures for the last 5 years are as follows and show little variation:—

	Excellent %	Normal %	Slightly Sub-normal %	Bad %
1935	13.2	84.7	2.0	.1
1936	10.5	87.8	1.7	—
1937	12.3	85.3	2.4	—
1938	13.0	85.3	1.7	2 cases
1939	15.9	82.2	1.9	—

Heights and weights were as follows:—

HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS

Boys

Age	No. examined	Average Height in inches	Average Weight in lbs.
5—6 years ...	150	42½	41¾
6—7 „ ...	33	45	46¾
8—9 „ ...	389	50	58½
12—13 „ ...	188	56½	80¾
13—14 „ ...	19	60	93½

GIRLS

Age	No. examined	Average Height in inches	Average Weight in lbs.
5—6 years ...	155	42¼	40¾
6—7 „ ...	37	44¾	45
8—9 „ ...	436	50	56¼
12—13 „ ...	261	58	82¾
13—14 „ ...	18	60	92

Nutrition surveys are made periodically and suitable cases recommended for the provision of milk.

PROVISION OF MILK

Pasteurised milk is the only grade permitted. ½ pint twice daily is supplied free where the total family income falls within the approved scale if considered necessary on medical grounds. It is also granted in selected cases on medical grounds only.

SCHOOL CANTEENS

Two are situated in the more rural part of the Borough, one at Hempstead and the other at Rainham Junior Mixed School. During the 12 months ending 31st March, 1939, the Rainham canteen supplied 24,461 (21,355) dinners, of which 142 were provided free: at Hempstead the number was 9,671 (9,765), of which 866 were free.

PHYSICAL TRAINING.

Two organisers appointed by the Kent County Education Committee act in an advisory capacity in Gillingham.

SWIMMING

Instruction is given to selected children at the Corporation open-air swimming pool.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following summary gives the number of patients and contacts excluded during the years 1929-39 (Private schools included).

Year	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria	
	Cases	Contacts	Cases	Contacts
1929	160	—	144	—
1930	93	—	24	—
1931	55	64	11	22
1932	102	112	7	10
1933	122	130	14	20
1934	62	63	38	40
1935	62	57	14	37
1936	69	50	5	6
1937	151	135	28	34
1938	182	146	118	153
1939	121	134	49	72

MEASLES, WHOOPING COUGH, CHICKEN-POX, MUMPS

The following table illustrates the well-recognised occurrence of bi-annual epidemics of measles.

	Year	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Measles	...	6	821	3	773	10
German measles	...	22	13	11	18	13
Whooping cough	...	88	400	170	128	208
Chicken-pox	...	425	116	531	173	563
Mumps	...	94	500	593	29	9

The attendance at Byron Road Infants' School fell below 60% during the period 30th January to 3rd February, due to the prevalence of whooping cough.

FOLLOWING-UP BY NURSES

The nurses paid 1,692 (2,836) home visits, of which 860 were to make enquiries with regard to children suffering from infectious diseases.

Summary of School Medical Work

	1937	1938	1939
(1) Total visits to schools	331	377	287
(2) Attendances at routine medical inspections	123	140	75
(3) Attendances at clinics	513	517	444
(4) Visits to home <i>re</i>			
(a) Defective children	1,172	1,431	832
(b) Infectious diseases	1,454	1,405	860
(5) Examinations of head and bodies <i>re</i> cleanliness	22,759	23,337	16,206
(6) Notices sent <i>re</i> nits (children not excluded from school)	211	218	216
(7) Notices sent <i>re</i> nits and vermin (children excluded from school)	306	319	139

MEDICAL TREATMENT

The Balmoral Garden's Minor Ailment Clinic is open daily at 9 a.m. except during holidays, and the Rainham Centre three times a week. Total attendances numbering 4,399 were made by 946 children.

ATTENDANCES AT TREATMENT CLINICS

	Balmoral Gardens	Rainham	Total 1939	Total 1938
Ringworm	48	8	56	151
Ear defects	270	157	427	636
Impetigo	296	139	435	1,714
Eczema	35	1	36	175
Scabies	15	20	35	181
Alopecia	3	—	3	10
External eye disease	679	121	800	786
Other conditions	2,018	589	2,607	3,555
Total	3,364	1,035	4,399	7,208

Children suffering from the following conditions made 2,820 attendances for inspection:—

	Balmoral Gardens	Rainham	Total 1939	Total 1938
Catarrh, sore throats, colds, etc. ...	67	20	87	113
Vermin of head or body, nits, etc.	277	49	326	630
Ringworm	22	5	27	57
Impetigo	28	8	36	107
Scabies	40	3	43	158
Eczema	5	—	5	16
Other skin diseases	138	12	150	485
Defective vision, "sore eyes," etc.	134	31	165	242
Nose and throat diseases	442	55	497	927
Tubercular and pretubercular conditions	23	—	23	28
Chorea	9	15	24	22
Epilepsy	3	2	5	6
Ear disease	71	33	104	143
Heart disease	19	—	19	27
Rheumatism	6	—	6	23
Deformities	14	2	16	20
Convalescents from infectious diseases	229	31	260	299
Other diseases or defects	706	321	1,027	1,250
Total	2,233	587	2,820	4,553

NOSE AND THROAT DEFECTS

83 children received operative treatment at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester; the parents of 51 of these were subscribers.

25 children received operative treatment elsewhere, the majority at the Kent County Ophthalmic and Aural Hospital, Maidstone.

Children are inspected by the school dentist prior to operation.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC

Dr. Dunlop is in charge of the eye clinic. 239 children made 459 attendances; glasses were prescribed in 190 cases and obtained in 173 (91 per cent.).

Errors of Refraction.

Hypermetropic astigmatism	49=28.3%
Myopic astigmatism	34=19.6%
Mixed astigmatism	12= 7.0%
Hypermetropia	34=19.6%
Myopia	44=25.4%
Total ...	173

The work of the clinic may be summarised thus:—

Sessions held	78
Individual children attended	239
Total attendances	459
Glasses prescribed	190
Glasses not required or no change necessary ...	46
Referred to hospital	1
Still attending clinic	2

ORTHOPAEDICS AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

Children receive treatment at St. Bart's Hospital, Rochester, or the London Orthopædic Hospital. 6 were provided with surgical appliances at a net cost to the authority of £14 8s. 3d.

Cripples are defined by the Board as those incapacitated to such a degree as to be unable to take part, in any complete sense, in physical exercises or games or to receive proper benefit from instruction in ordinary elementary schools.

At the end of the year there were 12 on the register.

	Boys	Girls	Total
Infantile paralysis	4	—	4
T.B. of bones and joints	1	—	1
Other deformities	1	6	7
Total	6	6	12

RHEUMATISM, CHOREA AND HEART DISEASE

The following cases on the register are kept under observation:—

	Boys	Girls
Chorea	7	1
Heart disease following rheumatism or chorea	3	3
Acute and subacute rheumatism	5	3
	<hr/> 15	<hr/> 7
Total		22

PARENTS' PAYMENTS FOR TREATMENT

Parents pay small sums towards the cost of treatment except when they are necessitous.

	Parents' payments	Net Cost to Committee
Operations for throat and nose defects	8 4 6	93 15 6
Provision of spectacles	25 13 3	1 18 0
X-ray treatment of ringworm	5 0	1 6 6
Dental treatment	60 19 0	—
Treatment of minor ailments	9 2	—
	<hr/>	
Total ...	£95 17 11	

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

BLIND CHILDREN

At the end of the year there was one "totally blind" child on the register.

There were 3 partially sighted, i.e., "children who, though they cannot read ordinary school books or cannot read them without injury to their eye-sight, have such power of vision that they can appropriately be taught in a school for the partially sighted.

They are maintained in special schools.

DEAF CHILDREN

4 children "too deaf to be taught in a class of hearing children in an elementary school," are maintained in the Royal Deaf and Dumb School, Margate.

EPILEPTICS

There are 8 on the register suffering from "mild epilepsy." In addition one cripple is subject to severe attacks of the disease.

MENTAL DEFECTIVES

The register for children aged 7 to 16 years contains 71 names.

There were in addition 6 border-line cases.

The 71 children are classified as follows:—

Notified to Local Control Authority during 1939 and previous years.	Imbeciles	...	...	...	23
	Feeble-Minded (Ineducable)	...	...	...	6
	Feeble-Minded (Educable)	...	...	...	1
	(Special circumstance case)	...	...	...	1
	Feeble-minded (Educable)	...	...	...	41
					—
	Total	...	...	...	71
					—

The following annual report was received from Miss Nugent, the Secretary of the Kent Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare:—

“ The total number of children of school age under the supervision of the Association on 1st January, 1939, was forty-seven. During the year five new cases have been received from the School Medical Officer, making a total of fifty-two.

“ The details of these are as follows:—

1. *Disposals.*

Transferred to County M.D. Committee for Friendly Supervision	...	...	...	...	...	4
Withdrawn as no longer requiring supervision	...	...	...	...	...	1
Removed out of area	...	...	...	...	...	3
Untraced	...	...	...	...	...	1
Transferred from Residential Special School to Leybourne Grange Colony	...	...	...	...	...	1
						— 10

2. *Supervised for Education Committee under 16 years of age.*

Attending Elementary School	...	...	...	...	24
Attending no School	...	...	...	...	13
At Residential Special School	...	...	...	...	4
In Salvation Army Training Home, Chatham	...	...	...	...	1
					— 42
					—
					52
					—

Total number of children under the supervision of the Association on the 31st December, 1939	42
--	----

Reports.

" Forty-five reports have been rendered during the year, which included First Reports on new cases, Annual Reports on routine cases, Special Reports on children in whose cases some action is thought to be desirable, including those where continued supervision is necessary and notification to the County Mental Deficiency Committee is recommended for Friendly or Statutory Supervision.

Visits.

" Members of the staff have paid 99 visits to the homes of the children, and have also had interviews with Headmasters and Headmistresses at the schools. Members of the Local Case Committee have also visited one or two of the homes.

After Care.

" The Association continues to keep in touch with those children under or over 16 years of age who are not attending school, and the parents are often very grateful for friendly advice given when discussing their children's problems with the Visitor.

" The four children who have been transferred to the County M.D. Committee for Friendly Supervision are unemployed. Two are at home (one is quite unemployable), one is at the Salvation Army Training Home, Chatham, and one who was in the Medway Cottage Homes, has been evacuated to a reception area.

" Four of the thirteen children under the age of 16, but attending no school, are at home, one is receiving Home Teaching, the remaining eight are all in employment.

Occupation Centre.

" The number of children on the register during the first eight months of the year varied between 14 and 16. The Centre was not re-opened after the Summer holidays owing to the outbreak of hostilities, as in view of the number of low grade patients, it was felt that it would be impossible to convey them to a place of safety in time in the event of an air attack.

" A scheme of Home Teaching arranged by this Association, and approved by the Executive Council and the Sub-Committee of the County Mental Deficiency Committee is being carried out with great success. The Supervisor visits some of the homes of the children twice a week and gives a lesson of about one hour's duration. A certain number have left the area temporarily.

" Mrs. Mitchell, who was Supervisor for several years and did such splendid work at the Occupation Centre, resigned at the end of the Spring term. She was succeeded by Miss Crees.

“ Through the kindness of friends the children again had a very enjoyable Summer treat, in an attractive garden, where they played games and were given tea.

“ The Voluntary Helpers continued to attend the Centre regularly and gave valuable assistance to the Supervisor. Since the closing of the Centre these friends continue to keep in touch with the children.

Appreciation.

“ The Association wishes to thank the Medical Officer of Health and the Secretary of the Education Committee for their willing co-operation, also Members of the Local Case Committee, Teachers and all those who assist in forwarding the work in a voluntary capacity.”

SPECIAL SCHOOLS

There are none in the Borough but the Authority maintains children at the following institutions for the defects indicated :—

	Number of Children
East London Home & School, Upper Clapton	4 Blind
Royal Deaf & Dumb School, Margate ...	4 Deaf and Dumb
Besford Court, Worcestershire ...	1 Mentally Defective
Kingsmead School, Hertford ...	1 Mentally Defective
Beacon School, Lichfield ...	1 Mentally Defective
Heritage Craft School, Chailey ...	4 Crippled
West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases ...	1 Crippled

CO-OPERATION OF TEACHERS

The assistance of teachers has been most valuable in many directions throughout the year.

The efficiency of the school medical work is greatly enhanced by their co-operation.

CO-OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES

The services of the inspector of the N.S.P.C.C. proved effective in a number of cases where parents persistently refused to obtain treatment for their children.

The Blind and Cripple Guild gave much-appreciated assistance.

UNCLEANLINESS

The average number of visits by nurses to school departments was 6. Total examinations numbered 16,206 and 325 individual children were found unclean.

The 325 unclean children were distributed as follows:—

In Infant and Mixed Schools	...	Approx. 58%
Girls' Schools	... ..	„ 34%
Boys' Schools	... ..	„ 8%

The following percentages are interesting:—

Year	Percentage of average attendance found verminous		Percentage of average attendance excluded
1925	...	16.3	7.1
1926	...	17.3	5.8
1927	...	12.6	5.3
1928	...	11.4	4.7
1929	...	8.9	3.2
1930	...	9.4	3.1
1931	...	10.1	4.4
1932	...	9.5	4.1
1933	...	10.5	4.5
1934	...	7.9	3.1
1935	...	7.7	3.2
1936	...	6.6	2.9
1937	...	7.1	3.2
1938	...	6.4	3.2
1939	...	4.6	1.3

Details relating to individual schools are given in the Table on page 17.

EXCLUSION AND RETURN-TO-SCHOOL CERTIFICATES

The number issued by the department during the year was 3,123. The conditions for which children were excluded are set out below:—

	1939	1938
Uncleanliness of head and body	92	196
Whooping Cough—cases 208; contacts 17 ...	225	143
Chicken Pox—cases 563; contacts 1	564	183
Mumps—cases	9	29
Measles—cases 10; contacts 2	12	958
German Measles—cases 13; contacts — ...	13	20
Scarlet Fever—cases 121; contacts 134 ...	155	328
Diphtheria—cases 49; contacts 72	121	271
Impetigo	38	111
Scabies	19	78
Eczema	—	2
Ringworm	8	21
Other skin diseases, minor injuries, etc. ...	112	267
Catarrh, sore throats, colds, etc.	202	305
Defective vision, “sore eyes,” etc.	46	98
Tubercular and pre-tubercular conditions ...	1	3
Anæmia, debility, etc.	30	59
Enlarged glands	5	28
Bronchitis	4	23
Chorea	7	12
Ear disease	41	57
Heart disease	5	2
Epilepsy	—	4
Rheumatism	3	3
Convalescents from infectious disease	40	42
Convalescents from operations	65	112
Other conditions	169	209
Return to school certificates	1,137	2,068
Total ...	<u>3,123</u>	<u>5,632</u>

PERCENTAGES OF UNGLEANLINESS IN SCHOOLS.

SCHOOL.	Recog. Accom.	Effec- tive Accom.	No. on Roll July, 1939.	Number of individual children found unclean.	Percentage of children on Roll found unclean.		Number of indi- vidual children excluded.	Percentage of children on Roll excluded.	
					1939	1938		1939	1938
COUNCIL SCHOOLS.									
Byron Road Jr. . . . B	384	384	374	3	8	1.0	1	3	—
" " " . . . G	338	338	335	1	3	3.6	—	—	1.8
" " " . . . I	342	342	247	3	1.2	2.3	1	4	1.3
Barnsole "Road Jr. . . B	422	390	389	2	5	7	1	3	5
" " " . . . G	418	380	386	4	1.0	5.0	1	1.0	2.7
" " " . . . I	358	300	300	2	1.6	1.9	1	4	.8
Richmond Road . . . B	370	370	332	5	15	11	2	8	5.7
" " " . . . G	470	370	379	58	15.3	11.4	25	6.6	3.3
" " " . . . I	570	500	403	38	9.4	6.1	14	4.0	2.2
Napier Road "Sen. . . B	320	320	234	6	2.6	3.3	2	2.2	4.4
" " " . . . G	320	320	225	4	1.8	7.3	—	9	5.0
" " " . . . I	372	340	226	9	4.0	6.7	2	1.3	3.8
Hempstead Jr. . . . M	200	200	175	8	4.6	8.3	3	1.7	3
Arden Street . . . B	400	400	300	4	1.3	1.7	—	—	3
" " " . . . G	280	280	227	11	4.8	6.2	2	9	1.2
Woodlands Senior . . B	440	440	265	—	—	1.5	—	—	.3
" " " . . . G	440	440	269	11	4.1	6.3	1	4	5.4
" " " . . . I	384	384	358	8	2.2	3.4	3	6.2	2.9
Rainham Junior Cl. . M	402	400	416	13	3.1	5.1	5	1.2	1.3
Rainham Senior . . . G	400	400	264	1	4	4	1	4	.8
" " " . . . I	400	400	263	11	4.2	5.9	5	1.9	3.0
Skinner Street . . . G	300	300	205	4	2.0	3.0	—	—	6
Forge Lane Cl. Jr. . . M	223	223	238	22	9.2	19.8	7	2.9	10.7
" " " . . . I	165	165	146	15	10.3	13.1	6	4.1	7.9
James Street Cl. . . B	314	314	124	4	3.2	2.7	2	1.6	2.0
Canterbury St. Cl. . . G	180	180	84	10	11.9	18.0	1	1.2	6.4
NON-PROVIDED SCHOOLS.									
Holy Trinity . . . M	177	177	140	30	21.4	25.3	8	5.7	15.0
S. Aloysius' R.C. G & I	262	162	62	12	19.3	49.2	4	6.4	33.3
S. Mary's R.C. . . . M	280	280	297	15	5.0	3.9	4	1.3	7
Rainham C. of E. . . M	256	256	217	4	1.8	7.8	1	2.8	4.1
" " " . . . I	90	90	105	7	6.6	4.9	3	2.8	2.0
TOTAL . . .	10,252	9,745	7985	325	4.0(a)	5.7	107	1.3(b)	2.8

(a) or 4.6% of average attendance.

(b) or 1.3% of average attendance.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Statistical Tables

These give a detailed record of the work carried out
during the year.

TABLE I—MEDICAL INSPECTIONS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

A.—Routine Medical Inspections

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups

Entrants	375
Second Age Group	825
Third Age Group	486

Total 1,686

Number of other Routine Inspections

Grand Total 1,686

B.—Other Inspections

Number of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections 2,995

TABLE II

Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected during the Year in the Routine Age Groups up to 31st August, 1939

Age Groups	Number of Children Inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly Subnormal)		D (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	375	36	9.60	334	89.06	5	1.33	—	—
Second Age-group ..	825	101	12.24	705	85.45	19	2.30	—	—
Third Age-group ..	486	131	26.95	347	71.39	8	1.64	—	—
Other Routine Inspections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1686	268	15.89	1386	82.20	32	1.89	—	—

TABLE III

BLIND CHILDREN

At a Public Elementary School	At another Institution	At no School or Institution
Nil	Nil	Nil

DEAF CHILDREN

At a Public Elementary School	At another Institution	At no School or Institution
Nil	Nil	Nil

TABLE IV

TREATMENT TABLES

Group I.—MINOR AILMENTS (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table VI)

Disease or Defect (1)	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year		
	Under the Authority's Scheme (2)	Otherwise (3)	Total (4)
Skin—			
Ringworm-Scalp—			
(i) X-Ray Treatment. If none, indicate by dash	1	—	1
(ii) Other Treatment	—	2	2
Ringworm-Body	5	—	5
Scabies	15	1	16
Impetigo	103	1	104
Other skin disease	68	7	75
Minor Eye Defects	132	6	138
(External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II)			
Minor Ear Defects	101	13	114
Miscellaneous	521	17	538
(e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)			
Total	946	47	993

Group II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I)

	No. of defects dealt with		
	Under the Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Total
ERRORS OF REFRACTION (including squint)	239	13	252
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)	—	1	1
Total	239	14	253
	Under the Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Total
No. of Children for whom spectacles were			
(a) Prescribed	190	13	203
(b) Obtained	173	14	187

Group III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT

NUMBER OF DEFECTS

Received Operative Treatment												Received other forms of Treatment (4)	Total number treated (5)
Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital (1)				By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme (2)				Total (3)					
(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)		
4	3	76	—	2	2	21	—	6	5	97	—		
												184	292

(i) Tonsils only (ii) Adenoids only (iii) Tonsils and adenoids
(iv) Other defects of the nose and throat

Group IV.—ORTHOPÆDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

Number of children treated	Under the Authority's Scheme (1)			Otherwise (2)			Total number treated
	Residential treatment with education (i)	Residential treatment without education (ii)	Non-residential treatment at an orthopaedic clinic (iii)	Residential treatment with education (i)	Residential treatment without education (ii)	Non-residential treatment at an orthopaedic clinic (iii)	
	8	1	—	—	3	15	26

TABLE V.—DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

The heading "Specials" in this Table relates to all children inspected by the School Dentist otherwise than in the course of the routine inspection of children in one of the age groups covered by the Authority's approved scheme, namely, to children specially selected by him, or referred by Medical Officers, Parents, Teachers, etc., on account of urgency. The number inspected in each routine age-group are separately shown, as well as the total, but under "Specials" only the total number are given.

Temporary fillings, whether in permanent or temporary teeth, are recorded as other operations.

(1) Number of children inspected by the Dentist

(a) Routine Age-groups.

AGE	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total
Number	133	170	302	483	553	575	626	649	564	342	4,397

(b) Specials 345

(c) TOTAL (Routine and Specials) 4,742

(2) Number found to require treatment 1,440

(3) Number actually treated 940

(4) Attendances made by children for treatment 4,141

(5) Half-days devoted to:—

Inspection 33

Treatment 302

TOTAL .. 335

(7) Extractions:—

Permanent Teeth .. 317

Temporary Teeth .. 2,255

TOTAL .. 2,572

(6) Fillings (see note above):—

Permanent Teeth .. 1,496

Temporary Teeth .. 4

TOTAL .. 1,500

(8) Administration of general
anæsthetics for extrac-
tions 776

(9) Other Operations:—

Permanent Teeth .. 710

Temporary Teeth .. 94

TOTAL .. 804

TABLE VI.—UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS

All cases of uncleanliness, however slight, are recorded.

- (i.) Average number of visits per school department made during the year by the School Nurses 6
- (ii.) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses 16,206
- (iii.) Number of *individual* children found unclean 325
- (iv.) Number of *individual* children cleansed under Section 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921 —
- (v.) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken:—
- (a) Under the Education Act, 1921 —
- (b) Under School Attendance Byelaws —

Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928

**Statement of the number of Children notified during the year ended
31st December, 1939, by the Local Education Authority to the Local
Mental Deficiency Authority**

Total number of children notified—4

Analysis of the above Total

Diagnosis	Boys	Girls
1. (i) Children incapable of receiving benefit or further benefit from instruction in a Special School:		
(a) Idiots	—	—
(b) Imbeciles	—	1
(c) Others	—	1
(ii) Children unable to be instructed in a Special School without detriment to the interests of other children:		
(a) Moral defectives	—	—
(b) Others	—	—
2. Feeble-minded children notified on leaving a Special School on or before attaining the age of 16	2	—
3. Feeble-minded children notified under Article 3, i.e., "special circumstances" cases	—	—
4. Children who in addition to being mentally defective were blind or deaf	—	—
GRAND TOTAL	2	2

